

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested.

The various rejections of claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 (first paragraph) for lack of written descriptive support (new matter rejections) are respectfully traversed in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Support for the "detecting" step, as recited in claim 16, is found in the application as filed at page 27, line 27 to page 31, line 34 (i.e., section 5.5). This section of the application describes, in part, the use of autoinducer antibodies or binding portions thereof (i.e., functionally active fragments of such antibodies) for diagnostic purposes in detecting the presence of an autoinducer in a sample. Detection of the autoinducer is described as involving detection of a complex formed by the antibody (or functionally active fragment thereof) bound to the autoinducer. Page 27, lines 28-34. A number as suitable assays for detecting the complex are also described. Page 28, line 34 to page 31, line 22. Descriptive support for new claims 35-40 also appears in this same section.

For all these reasons, the rejections of claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 (first paragraph) as containing new matter should be withdrawn.

The various rejections of claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 (second paragraph) for indefiniteness are respectfully traversed in view of the above amendments.

The objection to claim 16 is respectfully traversed in view of the above amendments.

In view of all of the foregoing, applicants submit that this case is in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Edwin V. Merkel
Registration No. 40,087


NIXON PEABODY LLP
Clinton Square, P.O. Box 31051
Rochester, New York 14603-1051
Telephone: (585) 263-1128
Facsimile: (585) 263-1600

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